

NOTES & NEWS

New Records

from the Tropical Eastern Pacific

for *Recluzia palmeri* (Dall, 1871)

BY

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Lymnaea palmeri Dall, 1871, was described with a bleached white beach specimen as the holotype. The location given was "near the mouth of the Taqui River, near Guaymas, Mexico." This is presumed to be the Yaqui River which crosses Mexican Highway 15 at Bacum, about 15 km N of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora. Ciudad Obregon is a modern city which did not exist in 1871. The mouth of the river is about 120 km SE of Guaymas.

More recently, authors have recognized the marine origin of the species and have assigned it to the genus *Recluzia* Petit, 1853.

The last several years have brought to our attention 3 reports of this seemingly rare pelagic species. The first of these was made by Edith Abbott, San Dimas, California. She collected a beach specimen and a very small specimen with float which was washing in on the tide near Puertecitos, Baja California Norte, Mexico.

In June, 1978, Jewel Covey, San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico, found a fresh specimen without float on Cochori Beach near Guaymas. In June, 1979, Phil and Jewel Covey were walking the beach 12 km south of Matanchen, Nayarit, Mexico. In a small sandy area surrounded by rocks, they collected 23 specimens. These had been deposited by the receding tide and were not yet dry. An extensive search along the beach did not yield other specimens. There had been no on-shore wind nor heavy surf for the preceding few days.

Most of these specimens still had floats attached and represented all stages of growth. The largest specimen is 34.5 mm in height and 22.3 mm in diameter. The smallest is approximately 4 mm in height. The longest float is 95 mm in length. The floats are made up of irregular clear

bubbles of mucus which has been "set" by sea water. They retain much flexibility, even after 6 months in 60% alcohol. The outer half of each mature float is worn and decomposing, showing some fine olive-green algae and stumps of old egg capsules. The inner half is tightly packed with clusters of sausage-shaped egg capsules, each of which is about 3 mm in length and 1 mm in diameter and is attached to the float by a stalk about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm in length. One capsule when opened contained many hundreds of embryonic shells. The largest float supported several hundreds of capsules.

A fresh animal has a shell with a velvety olive-tan periostracum. One specimen was cleaned, revealing a light chestnut-brown shell that compared well with the description and figure of *Recluzia rollandiana* Petit, 1853. The same specimen from Nayarit was also compared with a specimen of *R. rollandiana* collected from the south Texas beach by Wayne and Audrey Holiman, Edinburg, Texas. No significant differences were noted.

Due to the generosity of Phil and Jewel Covey, I was able to examine and photograph the Nayarit material. Also, we now have in our collection 2 specimens and can discontinue a search which lasted for 25 years.

Literature Cited

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W. S. M.

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists will be held at San Diego State University, San Diego, California between June 23 and 26, 1981.

The meeting will feature symposia and contributed papers on molluscan topics, exhibits, shell and book auc-